

Serial No: 09/622,173

HIBST et al.

PF 48770

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 22 are currently pending in the application.

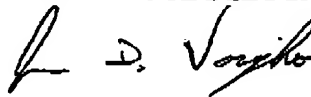
The Examiner in the Office action stated that the claim for priority to German Application 198 06 848.4 ('848.4) was denied under 37 CFR 1.55(a)(ii) because no claim was made in the international application within the time limits provided for by the PCT. The Applicants hereby confirm that any indication of a claim to priority of the '848.4 German application was in error. Applicants still claim priority to the following documents:

- (1) German application 198 05 719.9 ('719.9) filed on February 12, 1998;
- (2) German application 198 55 894.5 ('894.5) filed on December 3, 1998.

Favorable action is therefore solicited.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 14.1437. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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